

The elimination of Element 1 is ill-advised. Anything worth doing requires effort. Elimination of element 1 degrades the Amateur Radio Service to the status of the Citizen's Band. Removing the Element 1 qualification not only disregards the efforts made by so many who worked so hard to pass, but also will discourage the best and brightest from joining an elite group and contributing to future technological advances because the challenge will be taken away. It is the equivalent of taking a person who can't read and turning him loose in a library. The U.S. should lead, not follow the bad decisions of other countries. Applicants to the Amateur Radio Service are now already able to "get a foot in the door" without Element 1. Just because it takes a little time, effort and dedication to study for Element 1 is not reason to discontinue it. So-called "antiquated" technologies have a way of resurfacing and becoming critical skills, but it is the desire and the reward of an upgrade that are critical to maintain lest we become a nation of lazy know-nothings. Anyone who has the desire and applies himself can learn enough Morse to pass the exam. The Amateur service is not broken - do not "fix" it.